

**The Golden Beach gas project presents an opportunity to bring local, conventional gas to market while putting in place valuable infrastructure that will support Australia's long-term renewable energy goals.**

**GB Energy plans to undertake geophysical and geotechnical investigations in Victorian state waters off Ninety Mile Beach in 2019. An Environment Plan (EP) for the activity is being prepared for regulatory approval.**



## Geophysical and geotechnical investigations

### Geophysical investigations

Geophysical and geotechnical investigations gather detailed data and images of the seabed to confirm an area is suitable for the placement of a drilling rig.

Geophysical investigations provide information on the layering and thickness of the sediments, as well as identifying potential seabed and sub-surface hazards, and ensuring they are understood.

This work requires the use of a Multi-Beam Echo Sounder (MBES), Side Scan Sonar (SSS), Sub-Bottom Profiler (SBP), low energy shallow seismic equipment and a magnetometer. Geophysical investigations are expected to take less than one week to complete (subject to sea state conditions).

GB Energy expects to use a small, locally based vessel to undertake the work and will proactively interact with all key stakeholders to minimise the impacts.

This geophysical activity may involve a shallow seismic assessment, which would take less than 24 hours to conduct and would use a very low sound source.

### Geotechnical investigations

The geotechnical investigations will use a larger vessel to undertake the following activities:

- Analysis of seabed sediments using a grab sampler;
- Soil strength tests using a piezocone penetrometer (PCPT); and
- Geotechnical analysis of formations below the seabed by drilling shallow cores (up to 80 metres deep).

A temporary exclusion zone will be required around the vessel while undertaking these investigations to allow for safe operations, which may temporarily restrict commercial or recreational vessel movements.

Geotechnical activities are expected to take up to one week, dependent on sea state conditions.

### Investigation area

The investigation will be located within Victorian Offshore Petroleum and Gashouse Gas Storage Retention Lease area VIC/RL1(V) (see map on the following page) and will occur in water depths of 18–20 metres and cover an area of 4.3 square kilometres.

Geophysical investigations will be undertaken across most of this area, while geotechnical investigations will be undertaken at several discrete locations within this project area.

At its closest point, the investigation area is 3 kilometres from the coastline at Golden Beach, with the furthest point being 5.5 kilometres from the coastline.

### Environmental approvals

An Environment Plan (EP) for the proposed activity will be submitted to the Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) branch for acceptance under the Victorian Offshore Petroleum and Gashouse Gas Storage (OPGGS) Regulations 2011.

The EP is a comprehensive document detailing the marine and shoreline environment, potential impacts and risks, and describes how activities will be conducted to manage, minimise or avoid environmental risks to as low as reasonably practicable.

The EP will be submitted to DEDJTR in late 2018 following extensive research, environmental modelling and stakeholder consultation.

A Summary EP will be published online. A separate EP will be prepared for the drilling phase, specifically addressing that activity and its potential impacts and risks.

### Purpose of this communication

Under Regulation 13F of the Victorian OPGGS Regulations, titleholders are required to consult with 'relevant persons' regarding offshore activities. You or your organisation has been identified as a 'relevant person'.

As such, GB Energy is interested in your feedback about the geophysical and geotechnical investigations and whether it may impact on your functions, interests or activities. These concerns can then be addressed in project planning and in the EP.

This information flyer constitutes the first stage of GB Energy's stakeholder consultation, and provides notification of the intent to commence consultation with you or your organisation about the project.

GB Energy is committed to establishing and maintaining meaningful engagement with all relevant stakeholders, and consultation will be ongoing during the project's planning and implementation phase.

This phase of consultation will provide relevant persons with an overview of the proposed development, and detailed information about the geophysical and geotechnical investigations. It will also elicit issues and concerns.

### Privacy statement

GB Energy will comply with the *Privacy Act 1988* when handling personal information collected during consultation activities.

Regulation 13D(f)(i) of the Victorian OPGGS Regulations requires that the details of stakeholder consultation are included in the EP, and Regulation 13E(4)(viii) requires that the details of stakeholder consultation are included in a Summary EP that is published on the DEDJTR website (<http://earthresources.vic.gov.au/earth-resources-regulation/licensing-and-approvals/petroleum/environment-plans>). Your name and contact details will not be provided in the Summary EP, or the full EP.

GB Energy will store your contact details, written correspondence and take a record of verbal communications into a stakeholder consultation register for the purposes of tracking issues and commitments. These details will remain confidential and will not be provided to third parties outside of the project team.

## About GB Energy

GB Energy is an independent Australian energy company that acquired the Golden Beach gas field, held under Retention Lease VIC/RL1(V), in May 2018. The gas field was discovered in 1967 but has yet to be developed despite its location in one of Australia's oldest and most prolific gas-producing regions, the Gippsland Basin.

GB Energy aims to develop the Golden Beach gas field, which will provide a new source of natural gas for an energy market that is expected to experience ongoing supply shortages.

Longer term, GB Energy intends to use the development to store natural gas. This involves converting the wells and infrastructure for gas injection in times of low demand, and gas withdrawal in times of high demand. This will:

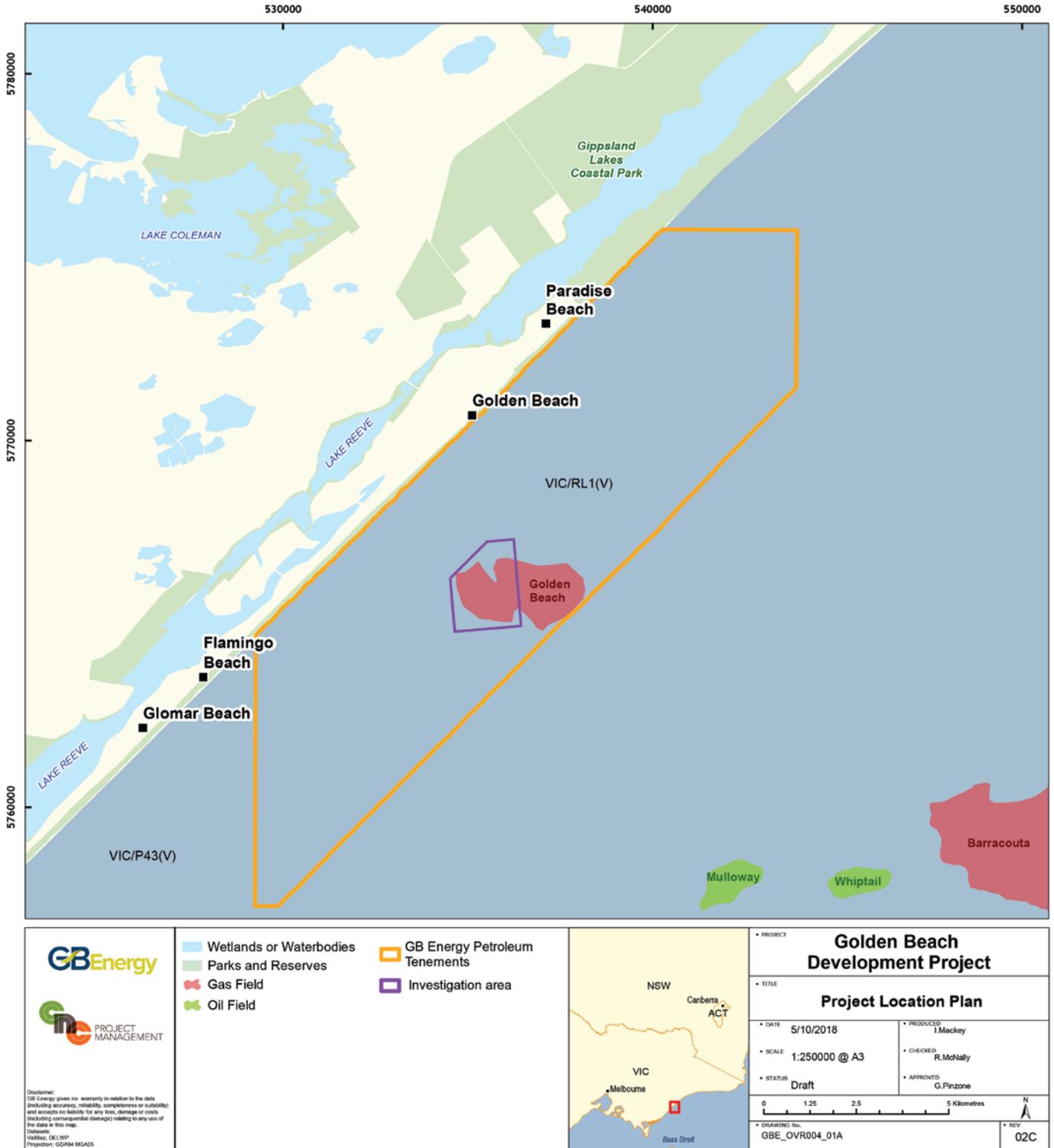
- Increase gas supply flexibility and efficiency, thus decreasing costs;
- Improve gas supply reliability and security in times of unplanned disruptions; and
- Support low-emission and renewable energy agendas well into the future.

## The Golden Beach gas project

The Golden Beach gas project involves the appraisal and subsequent development of the Golden Beach gas field.

The field is situated in Victorian state waters, 3 kilometres from the shoreline between the towns of Golden Beach and Glomar Beach, off the Ninety Mile Beach.

The development will initially involve undertaking geophysical and geotechnical investigations, then after extensive planning, the drilling of conventional offshore wells that would supply natural gas to the Gippsland region of Victoria.



## For further information

You can find more information about GB Energy and the Golden Beach gas project by visiting our website: [www.gbenergy.com.au](http://www.gbenergy.com.au)

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